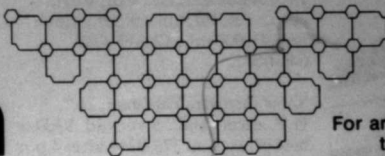


# the first edition

Volume 224



News Office 331N x31531

For and About Employees of  
the K mart Home Office

February 27, 1981

## Transplant successful, thanks to Gary

About two years ago 11-year-old Gordie Rossier, brother of Gary Rossier, KEI data processing, noticed a lump behind his ear. According to his doctor's diagnosis, Gordie had leukemia. In September of 1980, the doctors found more cancer, called testicular cancer, and decided on a bone marrow transplant, an operation only performed within the last six years.

In preparing for the transplant, which miraculously was a success, Gordie needed a donor genetically compatible and so his brothers and sisters were put through a series of tests. Gary and Gordie turned out to be 99% genetical twins, which is highly unusual.

Surgery took place January of this year, at the University of Minnesota Hospital, one of five hospitals which does bone marrow transplants.

Gary stayed at the Ronald McDonald House on campus near the hospital undergoing additional testing on all of his bodily functions.

"Even if I had a cavity, they would have to postpone the operation because it could affect the outcome," Gary explains.

Prior to surgery, Gordie was given total body radiation in an attempt to wipe out all leukemic cells and to destroy his bone marrow. Then he was kept in total isolation until the operation.

During the operation nine incisions were made in Gary's back and 1500 cc's of bone marrow were extracted. This was liquified and measured out to 570 cc's for Gordie. At least 550 cc's were needed for a successful transplant. The marrow was given to Gordie intervenously.

The following 10 days after the transplant are the most crucial for the patient because that's when the bone marrow multiplies and begins to take over.

"It's incredible what science does," Gary says. "Since the bone marrow is made and produced in the blood, Gordie's blood changed from AB- to my type, O+. That's because my marrow is used to producing type O+. So for the rest of his life, Gordie will have my bone marrow and my blood type."

Gordie was also fitted with a Hickman tube. This extracts blood from the heart for the doctors rather than taking blood through a needle. Gordie's blood was extracted every four hours after surgery during the crucial 10 day period.

"The hard part about being a donor, is that you don't want to give bad

*continued on back page*

## Worldwide tour stops in Detroit

Champion figure skaters from around the globe will glide across the ice on March 29th at the Joe Louis Arena for the 1981 World Figure Skating Tour.

Scottie Hamilton will perform some of the winning jumps and spins that won him first place in the U.S. Championships.

Performer David Santee, noted for being a fan of "Rocky" movies, will skate to the theme from Rocky. He placed second in the U.S. Championships.

Skaters from Russia, East Germany, Japan and Switzerland will also be on hand.

The \$9 seats are being discounted to \$7 for all KIH employees. They are available until March 19 from June Davis in building personnel. A seating chart is available.

